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REMARKS

It is noted that Claims 26 to 39 have been indicated as being allowed. The allowance of these claims is acknowledged.

Reconsideration and allowance of the remaining claims, as amended, is respectfully requested in light of the comments presented hereinbelow.

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to remove all "optional" features. These features have been made the subject matter of additional Claim 40. It is believed that new Claim 40 is fairly based on the subject matter of the specification as filed.

With this amendment, the objection to the antecedent for "said outgoing digital signals" has been obviated (although this item has been corrected in newly added Claim 40).

Applicant has also amended Claim 1 to provide proper antecedent for the phrase "said original reply digital signal" (line 20 of record), by removing the word "original".

Applicant has also amended Claim 5, part "d", to replace the reference to "asynchronous" with "isochronous". It is contended that this is merely the correction of an obvious clerical error since the remainder of the claim repeatedly refers to "isochronous" data.

Accordingly, the Applicant contends that the present application is now in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Summary

In light of the amendments made and described hereinabove, the Applicant contends that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed and corrected, and that the present application is now in an allowable format.

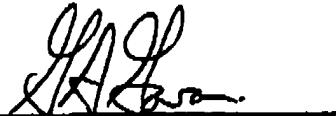
Accordingly, favourable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

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A return postcard is enclosed for stamping and return by the Patent Office, with the confirmation copy of this facsimile.

Should any further issues remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone, at 905-815-9267, to review any further items.

Respectfully submitted,



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